

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application is a continuation of copending Application No. 09/938,827, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,658,488, hereby incorporated by reference, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/340,384, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,282,519 B1, which is hereby incorporated by reference, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/377,610, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,999,916, and which is incorporated herein by reference, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/229,609, filed on April 19, 1994, now abandoned, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/203,191, filed February 28, 1994, which is abandoned. This Application is related to Application No. 08/868,942, filed June 4, 1997, now issued as U.S. Patent 6,332,167 entitled MULTITHREADED BATCH PROCESSING SYSTEM, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/229,526 filed April 19, 1994, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,668,993, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/203,531, now abandoned, and to Application No. ~~08/944,380~~ 09/944,380, filed Sept. 04, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,708,226, which is also a continuation of Application No. 08/203,531, now abandoned. This application is related to Application No. 08/698,277 entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING DISCRETE BILLING EVENTS filed April 19, 1994, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,724,584, which is a file wrapper continuation of Application No. 08/229,538, now abandoned, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/203,193, now abandoned.